

THE OFFICE ACTION

In the Office Action issued December 8, 2006, the Examiner objected to claim 47 as being misnumbered. The Examiner rejected claims 1-27, 32-34, 43-55, and 56-62 under §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner also rejected claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP06-163157 to Kato et al. ("Kato"). The Examiner also rejected claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,803,438 to Hanak ("Hanak"). The Examiner further rejected claim 41 under §103(a) as being obvious over Kato in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,518,432 to Katou et al. ("Katou"). The Examiner indicated that claims 31, 35-40 and 42 contained allowable subject matter.

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections/rejections in light of the above amendments and the following comments. Claims 1-28, and 32-62 remain pending in the application.

A. The Objection to the Claims and Rejection under §112

Amendments have been made to claims 6, 32, 47 to correct inconsistencies and typographical errors. Claims 1, 43 and 56 have been amended to remove the recitation of "low pressure", which the Examiner found to be indefinite. Withdrawal of these rejections are therefore requested.

B. The §102 and §103 Rejections

An amendment has been made to incorporate the recitation of claim 31 into independent claim 28. Claim 31 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in light of the above comments and amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims recite patentable subject matter. If there are any issues remaining, the Examiner

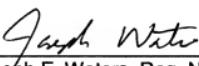
is encouraged to contact the undersigned in an attempt to resolve any issues. If any fee or extension is due in conjunction with the filing of this amendment, Application authorizes deduction of that fee from deposit account 06-0308.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

May 22, 2007


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